To: Capitol Staff and Interested Citizens

Re: Waiver article for your constituent newsletter

Date: November 9, 2015

Thank you for learning about Medicaid Waivers via the DMH Director's Ambassadors Academy. As several of you requested, here is content you can publish in your District's electronic newsletter

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Friends,

My **(staff member title) (staff member name)** is attending courses at the Capitol provided by the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH). The 2015 DMH Ambassadors Academy explains programs for individuals with developmental disabilities. **(Staff member name)** learned about Medicaid Waivers and we want to share this information with you.

The DMH Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) works to improve lives for Missourians through supports and services that foster self-determination. In recent years efforts and funding have focused on in-home services through Medicaid Waivers, a partnership between the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and state governments. This partnership allows states to test new or existing ways to deliver and pay for health care services. The Waivers allow the Division to deliver long-term care service to clients in home and community settings rather than institutions. Currently Missouri provides 36% of the funding, and the CMS provides the remaining 64%.

Missourians must qualify for services and complete an application process with MOHealthNet. To qualify for a waiver, an individual must:

- be determined eligible for development disability services
- be Medicaid eligible
- have needs that regular state plan services cannot meet,
- have at least three functional levels of need. These levels include self-care.

An array of services is provided through waivers including transportation, counseling, therapies, and employment services. DD administers five Home and Community-Based (HCB) Waiver programs for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Comprehensive Waiver is available to individuals who would be in crisis without residential services. The remaining four waivers focus on keeping families together in the home. These waivers include:

- **The Missouri Children with Development Disabilities Waiver aka the Lopez Waiver -** For children up to age 18, this waiver began in 1995, has no funding cap and the parents' income is not considered. To qualify for this waiver the child must live with family and have a permanent

and total disability. The child typically moves into another waiver program at age 18. Up to 366 individuals can be served a year.

- **Autism Waiver -** This waiver has a cap of $22,000, and covers persons between the ages of 3 and 18. In order to qualify the individual must have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statics Manual of Mental Disorders from the American Psychiatric Association. This waiver began in 2009 and serves up to 175 Missourians annually.
- **Community Support Waiver -** This waiver provides a vast array of services with a yearly $28,000 cap on funding but no age limit. Established in 2003, this waiver serves up to 2,254 Missourians annually.
- **Partnership for Hope Waiver -** Established in 2010, this waiver covers many services, including some dental services. This waiver is available in 103 counties in Missouri and St. Louis City, and is funded by local SB40 Boards (18%), the state (18%) and CMS (64%). It has an annual cap of $12,000 and serves approximately 3,100 Missourians annually.

You can find more information in the DD waiver manual posted online at MOHealthNet http://207.15.48.5/collections/collection_dmh/Print.pdf. DMH recommends that families with a loved one with a disability contact their DD regional office http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/facilities/ to learn more about the programs available, including the waivers.

As always, let us know how our office may assist you or answer your questions.

Warmest regards,

(Name of elected official)

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